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Yes, Von Hertling, you are right—Germany will not keep Belgium.

With characteristic duplicity, the Germans masked their new offensive under camouflage of talk about peace. The wolf in sheep's clothing, indeed.

The government at Washington has loaned \$6,250,000 to governments which are allied with the United States in the prosecution of the war against the central powers. This is getting to be a great creditor nation, to be sure.

Publisher W. D. Pelley of the St. Johnsbury Caledonian is evidently finding some hard wheeling during his automobile tour to the California coast as a preliminary to his world tour, but he must be getting a headful of "local color" for some new stories.

It is worthy of note in passing that in all the various official changes in Berlin, Germany, the name of Von Bernstorff does not figure in the list of those chosen to high position. Von Bernstorff's footprints were too thoroughly revealed in the United States perhaps.

Vermont people should begin to prepare themselves to meet the next call for funds to carry on the Y. M. C. A. war work, for the state is to be asked to give an amount between \$200,000 and \$250,000. The splendid work which the Y. M. C. A. has been doing both at home and abroad, for the care of our soldiers, should appeal to every Vermonter.

It has been found a Burlington dealer in groceries has been selling short weight articles, and he has been heavily fined for the acts. The case illustrates the value of the law which requires testing of scales. Some of the scales get out of balance without tampering; others get that way by deliberate effort on the part of the merchant. In either case the injustice is remedied under the inspection law.

With United States troops being shipped across at the rate of 90,000 a week it will take less than six months to complete the formation of an army of 2,000,000 men in France or parts of western Europe where they can do the most effective service. Germany does not recognize, officially or unofficially, that there are now a million American men in uniform in Europe; but the truth will come home to that nation with crushing force in due season.

The young women of Vermont have a chance to do service for their country by enlisting in the nurses' reserve which is being formed in the United States, the members of which will take up the positions vacated by the Red Cross nurses who have gone abroad. This nurses' reserve will be recruited from the entire country, the apportionment being made according to population. No doubt a large number of young women have been desirous of getting into some active occupation which would count in solving the government's problem and aid in winning the war. They now are assured of this chance through the nurses' reserve. The hospitals of the country are being hard hit by the resignations of those who have enlisted in Red Cross work abroad, and it is absolutely necessary that these ranks be filled by women who are willing to enter into the work wholeheartedly. There is a fine opportunity for women in this branch of service.

The honor comes to the town of Groton to lead the state, for a brief period at least, in the purchase of war savings stamps, the lively little town of 915 population having lifted its per capita to \$15.56 during the week ending June 20, taking the lead from towns which have long stood at the head of this movement. Danville, another Caledonia county town, stands second, but its per capita is far below that of Groton, while Lyndon of the same county, standing third, is considerably below Danville. If Groton keeps up the good work it may be possible for the town to gain the distinction of being the first town to reach the per capita quota as fixed by the government, and then to go far over the mark as the spirit of patriotism of its citizens and their keenness to perceive a good business proposition cause them to invest more and more during the latter half of the calendar year. The Times wishes to congratulate its readers in the town of Groton, as well as all others in that community, for their alertness in meeting the call of the government in this particular.

AGAIN THE SHOCK OF BATTLE.

The shock of battle is again on. After weeks of comparative quietude the enemy on the western battle line in Europe has essayed the resumption of the offensive on a grand scale and with a fury which is said to be unexampled. During these weeks the German war leaders have been rebuilding their divisions shattered in four costly drives against the allied lines since March 21, and in the meantime they have been storing up a

reserve of equipment and munitions for the new effort. There is the frenzy of desperation back of this new movement because of the realization that the United States is going to prove the turning factor in the war unless Germany can get the decision before the full force of American strength is felt. Therefore, it is to be expected that the present operations will be carried out with grim determination, and probably attended by great losses on both sides.

Against the determination there will be a purpose fully as grim and fully as determined. The French are really fighting with their backs to the wall of Paris. The British realize full well that the defeat of the allies in their efforts to prevent the foe from reaching Paris would react strongly against London itself, psychologically if not from a military standpoint. The Americans at home and abroad, while not embattled as are the French or the British, appreciate the fact that the freedom of the world would be endangered by German success. Hence the three allies, shoulder to shoulder, and aided by smaller nations, are likely to meet the foe stoutly. Moreover, there will be the greater courage because of the growing confidence felt with the acquisition of American troops and equipment in large numbers and in huge quantities, respectively. The morale of the allies during the past few months has, too, been strengthened immeasurably as blow after blow of the enemy was parried and more recently by the continued success of localized efforts on their own part.

So, while viewing the new German drive with all the seriousness that it undoubtedly deserves, the allies will nevertheless maintain a large measure of confidence in the ability of their men to stem the tide before irreparable damage shall be done. We in the United States will naturally be anxious for the welfare of the American army now in the thick of the battle but we also should repose confidence in the skill of General Foch and the strength of the armies opposing the enemy.

CURRENT COMMENT

A "Dig" at the Lawyers.

One of the strongest editorials published in a Vermont newspaper in a long time appears in the Burlington Clipper, under the title, "Burlington's Menace." The text is found in the state which has been presented by The Free Press, with one lawyer of the city for governor, three more for state senators, and one for representative in the legislature. The Clipper points out the weakness in the policy of pushing so many lawyers into public office and ignoring the business men who can accomplish things expeditiously, and it names 20 business men to whom it would be willing to entrust important questions which are always before the legislature, like the following: Employment of convicts, management of state institutions, audit system for state officials, buying supplies, water power rights, regulation of automobile traffic, construction of highways. The Clipper about these questions, a lawyer or a good, sound business man. The answer is easy for any man who has been in active business affairs and has had business relations with lawyers. As a class they are slow in action and fettered by a red tape which they call precedent. Our public and legislative life is top-heavy with lawyers. We need more live business men with initiative in public affairs in order to make progress, but the trouble is that too many of the men of this class are absorbed in private affairs, and it is a sacrifice for them to take public office, while that is just what the lawyer is looking for.—Brattleboro Reformer.

The Forbidden Voyage.

Of course, there are many heart-burnings over the new restriction that no more passports shall be issued to any women relatives of either soldiers or civilians who are in overseas service, or to any women less than 25 years old. Congress is being importuned to upset the regulation and to let down the bars to something approaching the free and easy opportunities for trans-Atlantic travel that women enjoyed in the early months of the war. We can all understand how small a chance a congressman has to think straight when he is button-holed by the blushing bride of a lieutenant who has had to leave her behind when he sailed, or by a fair graduate of 1918 who is just dying to do something, she is not sure what, in dear France.

The passport privilege was suffering so many abuses at the hands of women, most of them well-meaning enough, that the necessity for the new restrictions was fairly forced on the government. The desire of wives, mothers and sweethearts to follow their loved ones overseas is not hard to understand. Then there is the problem of the young women of wealth and fashion who felt qualified to "blend" in "Red Cross" overalls. Romance and war are as inseparable as tragedy and war are. But a government that sends a great army and vast stores of supplies thousands of miles over the sea has to put practical considerations about sentiment. It has to consider the efficiency of its fighting forces, the matter of shipping facilities, the matter of food for non-combatants, and many other things that rarely count in the plans of the young women—whether they are inspired by honest patriotism or sheer selfishness—who seek passports in a time like this.

No doubt there are hundreds, probably thousands, of American women abroad at this time who ought not to be there. Their presence is a burden to France and a handicap to our army. Let it be granted that most of them went with good intentions; that does not help the situation. Their number should be decreased as fast as possible, not increased. On the other hand, it is a pity that the new restrictions have to be so strict that they exclude trained women workers, the kind needed desperately abroad, because they happen to be the relatives of men in service there. The war department bases its action not only on the restrictions that Great Britain found itself forced to establish, but also on the views of General Pershing and Chief of Staff March, who hold strong opinions on this matter as a result of their experiences in France. And stern experiences there are worth more as evidence than sentimental theories there.—Boston Herald.

MONTPELIER

Novelty Shop on Winooki Avenue Was Burned Saturday Evening.

Fire broke out in the novelty shop that has been operated for two years by C. C. Taft on Winooki avenue about 6:30 o'clock Saturday evening and in a couple of hours the building was destroyed. H. A. Russell, who was probably the last man at the building, said there was not a sign of fire when he left the place a short time before the fire was discovered. With his son, he had been working at the shop during the day. The loss probably amounts to \$5,000, which is partly insured. Mr. Taft's loss will be in the neighborhood of \$3,000, while the building, owned by the Central Vermont Railway company, was worth about \$2,000 and insured under a blanket policy carried by the company. Mr. Taft had completed arrangements for moving his property to the Gisborne factory on the upper end of the same street. The fire was discovered by persons passing from the building by Mrs. Frank George and others. Joseph Lamery pulled the alarm at the corner of Winooki avenue and Northfield street. A telephone call from the Lombard property also gave the fire department notice of the fire. The building was situated out of range of the water protection, probably a quarter of a mile from the nearest hydrant, so that the only fighting apparatus that could be used was the acid extinguishers and Pyrene guns, which did effective work until the fire broke out again. The firemen said that someone passed them a can in which was oil, saying "it was water." As soon as this was thrown on the embers it spread the fire over that portion of the building and beyond any effort that the department could make. Some machinery was saved. A small chemical engine would have easily handled the matter. All of the acid extinguishers and Pyrene guns on the two fire-fighting wagons were emptied on the fire and more extinguishers were being reloaded when the "can of water" was thrown on the almost burned out embers. John Crossett was badly burned about the hands when this flash occurred, while Earl Page, who threatened the contents on the fire, narrowly escaped being burned. He gave the can to Elmer Pierce, who threw it out the window, but the damage was done, and the firemen had to hustle to get out of that part of the building.

Mr. Taft operated a mill making small articles and was completing a contract on piano legs, after which he expected to move to the Gisborne shop. Mr. Russell and his son were the only ones working at the shop Saturday. Neither uses tobacco and their explanation of the fire Saturday night was that the lightning, which had been flashing about that time, must have come into the building on the wire that had been cut from a motor that had been removed. The wires had been left and "probably formed an arc when the lightning came into the building." Mr. Russell left the building a little after 6 o'clock and there was no indication of fire at the time. Mr. Taft had sold the small machinery to Richard Demerit of Waterbury and was going into bobbin manufacturing. In fact, he had installed one new machine. All the machinery in the building was this new machine, a planer and a motor, all of which were nearly new. One machine outside the building was saved by the firemen moving it across the road. Mr. Taft, who was in Waterbury, was telephoned and came back in his automobile before the building was consumed. The fire put the down trunk telephone lines between Montpelier and Burlington out of working order. Wire Chief Harold Stranahan and his men laid insulated wires along the railroad tracks from a pole one side of the building to one on the other side, so that they had the service resumed before the fire department had left the place. These were temporary laid and the permanent lines were placed Sunday. Reports from train substantiated Mr. Russell's version, for one of them reported seeing a blue flame around the wires when the 6:15 o'clock train left Montpelier.

W. A. Pattee, who has been at the head of the fire department since it was reorganized some years ago, completed his services last Saturday night, and Acting Chief E. B. Persons is in charge of the department, having accepted the appointment temporarily. His friends are urging him to make a permanent acceptance of the position. There is still one vacancy in the department. A. R. Moore having been promoted to assistant chief, leaving a vacancy in the drivers. If Mr. Persons accepts the chiefship, another vacancy will develop, namely, as the second assistant chief, which Mr. Persons has held since. Friday evening, following a drill on ladder scaling, the men of the department gathered in the club room of the department and Dr. E. C. Barrett, calling upon Chief Pattee to remain orderly, presented him, upon behalf of the men in the department, an oak smoking cabinet, standing about 40 inches high, a very suitable piece of furniture to decorate the retiring chief's home. Chief Pattee accepted it, after which Dr. Barrett called upon several of those present, who said some nice things of the retiring chief. The cabinet is valued at about \$40.

Wilfred Ledden of the Western Union force has signed an application for enlistment in the army signal corps. He is under 21 years of age.

Ashley Mason and Ray Bigelow, who were brought into Montpelier city court on the charge of larceny Saturday morning, were sentenced to three months in the county jail, after which they were placed on probation.

Sumner Wentworth was arrested last evening by Deputy Probation Officer C. A. Smith on the charge of breaking his probation by not caring for his family. The warrant was issued from the state probation office. Wentworth was placed in class four in the draft on the ground that he had a dependent family and, according to the officer has not been taking care of his family. He was given a choice of self-induction into the army or that his family may have the means which he has not been providing or of being prosecuted, stated the probation officer this morning, upon the grounds of white slavery.

MARKET WAS HEAVY.

On Reports of Resumption of German Offensive.

New York, July 15.—Stocks were irregular at the opening of today's market, but soon developed a heavy tone on reports indicating a renewal of the German offensive along the western front. Active equipments and specialties, particularly tobacco, yielded 1½ to four points in the course of the first half hour. U. S. Steel and Reading reacted two points and other leaders were one to two points under last week's closing prices. Trading quickened on the decline. Liberty bonds were steady.

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One lot Ladies' High White Shoes Rubber sole at \$2.75

One lot of Ladies' Low Sport Shoes at \$1.59

Several other lines not listed. You should buy several pairs of these Shoes at the above prices.

Rogers' Walk-Over Boot Shop

"BASTILLE DAY" WAS OBSERVED IN MONTPELIER

Crowd of 2,000 People Attended Exercises Held in Honor of France—Representative of the French Army Present.

Montpelier did its part among the cities of America Sunday evening in celebration of Bastille day, in appreciation of what France has done for the United States, by appropriate exercises in city hall that were attended by about 2,000 persons. Every seat in the auditorium was taken, many extra ones were brought in and some 400 persons stood in the rear of the seats, in the aisles, and in available places in the balcony. The hall was fittingly decorated with the flags of the allies. The Montpelier Military band played several selections, while a chorus of 16 male voices, under the leadership of Herman D. Hopkins, sang popular patriotic selections. Miss Kathleen LeBaron of Waterbury Center, recently graduated from a conservatory of music in Boston, sang a French song, responding to an encore with a second song in French. It was her first appearance in Montpelier, and she certainly made herself popular with the music lovers of the city. Percy Pitkin sang a portion of Kipling's "Recessional" in his usual excellent manner. Among the selections played by the band was the "Marsellaise," the French national anthem.

Mayor F. W. Mitchell called the meeting to order, explaining that owing to an unforeseen reason Gov. H. F. Graham was unable to come to Montpelier to participate in the exercises to represent the state, and he then introduced Alderman H. C. Shurtliff, who presided over the meeting. During the evening Mayor Mitchell presented a resolution of considerable length, in which Montpelier pledged itself to stand back of France and fight this war to a victorious end. It was adopted by a rising vote of the citizens attending the meeting.

Alderman Shurtliff introduced as the first speaker Lieut. A. Morize of the 281st regiment, which was raised in Montpelier, France, and which has seen valuable service in the defense of his country. Lieut. Morize has suffered wounds and is therefore unable to continue his services. He came instead of Col. Azan, who filled another engagement. Lieut. Morize said he was nothing but a French soldier who has seen service and excused himself because of his difficulty with the English language. He said that when he was detailed to come to Montpelier he remarked, "I am going home." He referred to appreciation of the American people celebrating his holiday and that he is looking forward to one celebration by the two nations lasting for a week. He discussed the history which brought about each holiday. He said the past is gone, but the nations must look closely to the present and future. He said the morale of the French soldiers is not broken; they will fight, if need be, as long as one man or a woman is living in that country. When the war broke out they had 1,200,000 soldiers and in spite of 2,000,000 men who had died in action, not mentioning those who have died in prisons, France to-day has 4,700,000 soldiers fighting. When the war broke out, there were 17,000 women employed in factories; to-day there are 400,000 women employed making big guns and turning out many hundreds of shells a day. He said Italy, Belgium and the British soldiers and women have done as well as his own nation. "The war is going to last a long time," said the speaker. He seemed to think two years anyway, perhaps longer. He said there will be no German revolution because of the patriotism of that people. He discussed at some length the conditions following the war, and urged that a great deal will have to be done then, or the whole effort will be lost. Each person must ask himself or herself, "Have I performed all my duty to my country and myself?"

Prof. Richard Gotthell of Columbia university gave an interesting talk upon the conditions of this country when France came here to help us; how she was the first to recognize our freedom from Britain, and that we are going farther than that—we are fighting for

equality, brotherhood of man, and liberty. The Revolutionary war occurred as a result of a German prince being on the throne of England. France fought a similar condition when the fall of the Bastille occurred. We are paying our debt to France, not as men and women, but as children of the same God. He was in Germany preceding its outbreak and saw many German young men leaving the city without any notice in the papers of this fact. Inquiry resulted in information that they were leaving for the fall mobilization, but he soon learned different, for when he preceded the army out of Germany he saw the stations packed with soldiers and on the cars labels, "We will meet in Paris in eight days."

The exercises were fittingly closed with patriotic airs. The arrangements were in charge of Rev. S. F. Blomfield and James B. Estee.

BETHEL

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Burbank of Everett, Mass., came Saturday to visit at F. B. Snelling's.

Mrs. Lewis Squires again is at the sanatorium after being at home a few days.

Charles H. Call and Mrs. Almira Sargent, formerly of Chelsea, were married Saturday by Rev. J. Wesley Miller and are in Chelsea for their honeymoon. Mr. Call is a farmer from the north part of the town and the bride has been his housekeeper part of the time since the death of his former wife, four years ago.

The friends of Arthur H. Come have learned of his promotion to the rank of sergeant at the post hospital at Fort Ethan Allen.

Mrs. Charles J. White and Edgar H. W. Owen recently received the first letters received from Dewey W. White since his arrival in France with the medical department of the 47th U. S. infantry.

Rev. Dr. A. A. Greene of Medford, Mass., who is passing his vacation with relatives, was the preacher at the Universalist church yesterday morning.

Charles M. Beckwith and Clyde Blossom of the supply company, 37th Pioneer infantry, are at their homes for 15-day furloughs.

John O'Sullivan and family of New York are at their summer home, Villa Maria cottage.

Claude B. Williamson, who expected to enlist as a navy musician, found orders on his return to Boston to accept no more musicians at present. He is back in his place at the National White River bank awaiting a call to a navy paymaster's school at Philadelphia.

Glenn Bullard of Springfield, Mass., is a guest for two weeks of his aunt, Mrs. C. E. Noble.

Mrs. Fred Williamson and her son, Charles, went Saturday to Brattleboro, to visit relatives.

The Walter L. Main circus is to exhibit July 24 on the Graham meadow.

GRANITEVILLE

Misses Rose Gilbert and Mary Coughlin, who have been employed in Hartford, Conn., arrived here Saturday night to visit at their homes.

Word has been received of the safe arrival overseas of Capt. George MacIver. Thomas Murphy commenced work this morning in the office of Boutwell, Milne & Varum, taking the place of Daniel Bladene, who has enlisted.

John McRae went to Milan, P. Q., last week for two weeks' vacation. His place is being filled by Malcolm McInnis.

Alex Ewen spent a few days in Boston last week on business.

A number of young people from here attended the celebration at Lake Morey Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Scott and child of Barre were visitors in town Sunday.

Miss Mildred Miles left this morning for a few days' visit with friends in Warren.

Dan Antrobus went Friday night to Portsmouth, N. H., where he expects to secure employment.

Theodore Lascor went to Burlington this morning to be examined for the navy.

E. N. Aldrich, having sold out his grocery business to Alex Corey, is preparing to depart for Springfield, Mass.

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